

## GLYPHOSATE

**ISSUE/TOPIC:** Status of Glyphosate in the pesticide re-evaluation process

### **BACKGROUND:**

- The EPA initiated registration review for the herbicide glyphosate in 2009. The agency is in the process of completing the draft risk assessments supporting this review. The upcoming draft risk assessments will incorporate the results of endocrine screening analysis and the potential effects on monarch butterflies, as well as consider the 2015 International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) report classifying glyphosate as a probable cancer causing agent.
- Subsequent to IARC's 2015 report, various international regulatory agencies have concluded that glyphosate does not cause cancer. In April 2016, the EPA inadvertently published a memorandum from its Cancer Assessment Review Committee (CARC), which classified glyphosate as "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans." This report was later redacted because the EPA's full glyphosate assessment was on-going and incomplete.
- In December 2016, the EPA held a FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) meeting for glyphosate to discuss the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate. The agency proposed to classify glyphosate as "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans." The EPA received SAP's recommendations in March 2017, and is currently reviewing the report. The full SAP report is available at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0385-0526>
- Although the 2015 IARC reached the conclusion that glyphosate is a probable cancer causing agent, the European Food Safety Authority concluded in 2017 that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans.

*Congressional Inquiries:* The EPA received four congressional inquiries within the last year. These inquiries came from the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and members of Congress. The areas of Congressional interest mainly concern the cancer re-evaluation of glyphosate, including the findings of the CARC report and the EPA's timeline for glyphosate registration review. One inquiry focused on the registration of Enlist-Duo, a pesticide product which contains both glyphosate and 2,4-D, another herbicide.

### **TALKING POINTS:**

- The EPA is reviewing the Scientific Advisory Panel report on the carcinogenic potential of glyphosate and intends to issue draft human health and ecological risk assessments for public comment in 2017. Once public comments are received, the EPA will revise its risk assessments, if needed, and issue a Proposed Interim Decision for public comment.
- Under a settlement agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity, the EPA is scheduled to complete a biological evaluation on glyphosate by 2020 and, if necessary, initiate an

Endangered Species Act consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service by 2020.